GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3094
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Surface Water Pollution
Misra Shri Pinaki

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Water Aid" an international organization has stated in its report that 80 per cent of the surface water in India is polluted and is dangerous to health;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government to check surface water pollution in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a)to (c) Government is aware of a report prepared by Water Aid, non-governmental organisation on Surface Water Pollution and its impact on health. However, Water Aid has not undertaken any independent assessment of surface water pollution in India and its report is based on assessment of CPCB and other organizations. The surface water quality is monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with the concerned State Pollution Control Boards(SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for Union Territories across the country at 2500 stations, including 1693 stations for surface water under National Water Monitoring Programme (NWMP). As per available data for 2016, 55% observations conform to criteria related to Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), 44% to total coliform and 60% to faecal coliform.

Surface water pollution is a major concern and Government has recently taken a number of steps, including directions issued by CPCB to various SPCBs requiring local/ urban bodies to set up systems for sewage collection, treatment and disposal. The directions enjoins upon sewage treatment plants to meet the standards laid down for treated sewage to be used for non-potable purpose. To mitigate industrial pollution, directions have been issued for installation of online (24x7) monitoring devices as well as promotion of Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) in selected areas and adoption of water conservation practices.

This Ministry also supplements the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) on cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. NRCP (excluding Ganga and its tributaries which is handled by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation from 01.08.2014 onwards) has covered polluted stretches of 31 rivers in 75 towns spread over 14 States at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 4517.82 crore. So far, sewage treatment capacity of 2445.50 million liters per day (mld) has been created under the NRCP Programme (excluding Ganga and its tributaries).

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